

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office Action, dated April 7, 2003, Applicants hereby make the following response. Claims 1, 3-7, 11-14, 18, 19 and 24-27 are currently pending with claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 18, 20, 24 and 26 being independent. In an earlier response, claims 1, 3-7, 11-14, 18, 19 and 24-27 were amended and claims 2, 8-10, 15-17, 20-23 and 28, 29 were cancelled. In this response, claims 1, 3-7 and 18-19 are being cancelled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by *Shimizu* (EP 0968832). Claims 1, 3-5 have been cancelled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6-7, 13-14 and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shimizu* in view of *Allen* (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,199). Claims 6-7 and 18-19 have been cancelled.

The Examiner stated in the allowance of claims 11-12 and 24-27 that the cited references do not teach each nozzle array being associated with a different ink color. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 recites, among other elements:

“...a plurality of nozzle arrays formed on the nozzle plate within the array pattern, each nozzle array corresponding to *a color* ...” (Emphasis added).

Thus, claim 13 recites the allowable subject matter as noted by the Examiner. This limitation of claim 13 is similar to the limitation of allowed claim 26 which relates to a printer head.

Applicants respectfully submits that since claim 13 is patentable, all dependent claims therefrom are also patentable.

CONCLUSION


The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and believe that the claims as presented represent allowable subject matter. However, if the Examiner desires, the Applicants' attorney is ready for a telephone interview to expedite prosecution. As always, the Examiner is free to call the undersigned at 312-876-3427.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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